

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 26, 2016

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2007**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member McCarty**

February 16, 2016

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An act to add Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 124235) to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to youth athletics.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2007, as amended, McCarty. Youth athletics: youth sports organizations: concussions or *other* head injuries.

Existing law requires a school district, charter school, or private school, if it offers an athletic program, to immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, and prohibits the athlete from returning to the athletic activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions, and acting within the scope of his or her practice, and the athlete receives written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the athletic activity. Existing law also requires, on a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet to be signed and returned by the athlete and athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete's initiating practice or competition.

This bill would ~~additionally~~ apply these provisions to athletes participating in youth sports organizations, ~~as defined~~. *defined to include, but not necessarily limited to, a business or nonprofit entity or a local governmental agency, that sponsor or conduct amateur athletic competitions, camps, or clubs.* The bill would require youth sports

*organizations to notify the parents or guardians of athletes 17 years of age or younger who have been removed from athletic activities due to suspected concussions, as specified. The bill would require youth sports organizations to give concussion and head injury education, or educational materials, or both, to each of their coaches and administrators on a yearly basis, as prescribed. The bill would also require youth sports organizations to identify an individual within the organization who is responsible for ensuring compliance by the organization with the bill's requirements for providing concussion and head injury education. The bill would additionally require the youth sports organization to identify the details of the return-to-play protocol, as specified.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Article 2.5 (commencing with Section 124235)  
2 is added to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and  
3 Safety Code, to read:

4  
5 Article 2.5. Youth Sports Concussion Protocols  
6

7 124235. (a) A youth sports organization that elects to offer an  
8 athletic program shall comply with ~~both~~ *all* of the following:

9 (1) An athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or  
10 *other* head injury in an athletic activity shall be immediately  
11 removed from the athletic activity for the remainder of the day,  
12 and shall not be permitted to return to the athletic activity until he  
13 or she is evaluated by a licensed health care provider. The athlete  
14 shall not be permitted to return to the athletic activity until he or  
15 she receives written clearance to return to the athletic activity from  
16 a licensed health care provider. If the licensed health care provider  
17 determines that the athlete sustained a concussion or ~~a~~ *other* head  
18 injury, the athlete shall also complete a graduated return-to-play  
19 protocol of no less than seven days in duration under the  
20 supervision of a licensed health care provider.

21 (2) *If an athlete who is 17 years of age or younger has been*  
22 *removed from athletic activity due to a suspected concussion, the*  
23 *youth sports organization shall notify a parent or guardian of that*

1 *athlete of the time and date of the injury, the symptoms observed,*  
2 *and any treatment provided to that athlete for the injury.*

3 ~~(2)~~

4 (3) *On a yearly basis, the youth sports organization shall give*  
5 *a concussion and head injury information sheet to each athlete.*  
6 *The information sheet shall be signed and returned by the athlete*  
7 *and, if the athlete is 17 years of age or younger, shall also be signed*  
8 *by the athlete's parent or guardian, before the athlete initiates*  
9 *practice or competition.*

10 (4) *On a yearly basis, the youth sports organization shall give*  
11 *concussion and head injury education, or educational materials,*  
12 *or both, to each coach and administrator of the youth sports*  
13 *organization.*

14 (5) *The youth sports organization shall identify both of the*  
15 *following:*

16 (A) *An individual within the organization who is responsible*  
17 *for ensuring compliance by the organization with the requirements*  
18 *for providing concussion and head injury education contained in*  
19 *paragraph (4).*

20 (B) *Details of the return-to-play protocol required pursuant to*  
21 *paragraph (1).*

22 (b) *As used in this section, the following terms have the*  
23 *following meanings:*

24 (1) *"Concussion and head injury education and educational*  
25 *materials" and a "concussion and head injury information sheet"*  
26 *shall, at a minimum, include information relating to all of the*  
27 *following:*

28 (A) *Head injuries and their potential consequences.*

29 (B) *The signs and symptoms of a concussion.*

30 (C) *Best practices for removal of an athlete from an athletic*  
31 *activity after a suspected concussion.*

32 (D) *Steps for returning an athlete to school and athletic activity*  
33 *after a concussion or head injury.*

34 ~~(1)~~

35 (2) *"Licensed health care provider" means a licensed health*  
36 *care provider who is trained in the evaluation and management of*  
37 *concussions and is acting within the scope of his or her practice.*

38 ~~(2)~~

39 (3) *"Youth sports organization" means an—organization*  
40 *organization, which may include, but is not necessarily limited to,*

1 *a business or nonprofit entity or a local governmental agency, that*  
2 sponsors or conducts *amateur* athletic competitions, camps, or  
3 clubs in which persons 17 years of age or younger participate.

4 (c) This section shall not be construed to prohibit a youth sports  
5 league, *organization*, or any other appropriate entity, from adopting  
6 and enforcing rules intended to provide a higher standard of safety  
7 for athletes than the standard established under this section.